

# Department of Political Science

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**Contact Information:**

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**Administration:**

Head of the Department: Evan McKenzie  
Director of Undergraduate Studies: Petia Kostadinova

Political science is the systematic study of politics and its connection to human life as a whole. It focuses on the way people are governed and govern themselves in a wide variety of settings—including the state, the workplace, schools, and the family—and the way in which governance in those settings affects their life chances and shapes their sense of self. Students who elect this major examine, among other things, the relationships between law and political institutions, economic and political power, and culture and political identity. They develop the analytical, interpretive, and critical methods necessary to understand these relationships at local, national, regional, or international levels, and thus, to act as responsible citizens at those levels. They also learn to write well. In short, political science is central to a well-rounded liberal arts education.

Political science also provides excellent preparation for careers in law, government, teaching, journalism, business, and the nonprofit sector.

In addition to the BA with a Major in Political Science program, the department offers two concentrations: the Concentration in Law and Courts and the Concentration in Urban Politics.

## Distinction

To be considered for graduation with Distinction in Political Science, a student must have a minimum cumulative UIC GPA of 3.25/4.00 and a minimum GPA of 3.50/4.00 in all political science courses. The student must enroll in POLS 305, for 3 semester hours in each of the last two semesters of the student's senior year. Over the course of enrollment in POLS 305, students must write a research project and present and defend it to a faculty examining committee.

## Degree Programs

- [BA with a Major in Political Science](#)
- [BA with a Major in Political Science, Concentration in Law and Courts](#)
- [BA with a Major in Political Science, Concentration in Urban Politics](#)

## Minor

- [Minor in Political Science](#)